

Accessibility in STEM Education



Paramount School of Excellence is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Paramount School of Excellence (PSOE). We are a K-8 Mayor's Authorized Charter School on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. PSOE has been graded an "A" school for the past two years. The school serves 615 students with an 88% poverty population, and a 19% special education population. Most recently, the school has been named a top 10 school in Indiana by Education Cities for closing the achievement gap between students from low-income families and their more advantaged peers. PSOE focuses on rigorous academics, supported by an inclusive community culture and hands-on environmental science.

OUR TEACHERS at PSOE focus on thoughtful implementation of state approved core curriculum. Our school is a collaborative environment, allowing for growth and leadership alongside feedback, observation, and support. Teachers focus on a gradual release model, allowing students to maximize time mastering Indiana academic standards.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is our school's approach to its STEM extensions and environmental programming. We ensure that all members of the greater school community (students, staff, parents, community members) have true access to all environmental opportunities. Through strong community partnerships, we have been able to develop accessibility for all aspects of our school farm, including wheelchair accessible raised beds, an accessible outdoor classroom, accessible playground, and complete accessibility into our school greenhouse. Additionally, the school is working with an engineering firm to complete accessible trails in the school's peace park. This initiative will allow complete access to viewing platforms in an art and nature park that focuses on understanding tree canopies. Inside the building, the school's Time and Space Discovery Center features a presentation space, solar system room, and planetarium, all intentionally designed to ADA standards.

OUR STEPS involved working with the local Brookside neighborhood for the peace park and greenhouse design. To complete each project, PSOE relied on partnerships with Keystone Construction, Pepper Construction, KIB, R&B Architects, DKGR Architects, and Tree-Centric. Our accessible raised bed gardens were built after a training in Boston at the Boston Food Project. Our student green team and summer STEAM team work with our environmental staff and community volunteers to maintain the spaces.

IN OUR OWN WORDS The school has gone above and beyond to create an amazing space for everyone, and not just their students. – Neighborhood resident

We want to set the standard, and show that it can be done in everything we do. – PSOE Environmental Staff

We take our role seriously and know that our impact is shallow if it is not accessible to everyone. –PSOE Executive Director

For more information about Paramount School of Excellence, email Tommy Reddicks, Executive Director: treddicks@paramountindy.org, or visit our website at www.paramountindy.org.